

Translation

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT/EP2003/013890



PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 021237WO	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/EP2003/013890	International filing date (day/month/year) 08 December 2003 (08.12.2003)	Priority date (day/month/year) 23 December 2002 (23.12.2002)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC F16L 33/26, 25/00		
Applicant WEINHOLD, Karl		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of \_\_\_\_\_ sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I  Basis of the report
- II  Priority
- III  Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV  Lack of unity of invention
- V  Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI  Certain documents cited
- VII  Certain defects in the international application
- VIII  Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 23 July 2004 (23.07.2004)	Date of completion of this report 02 September 2004 (02.09.2004)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/EP2003/013890

## I. Basis of the report

## 1. With regard to the elements of the international application:\*

the international application as originally filed  
 the description:

pages \_\_\_\_\_ 1-8 \_\_\_\_\_, as originally filed  
 pages \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the demand  
 pages \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_

the claims:

pages \_\_\_\_\_ 1-19 \_\_\_\_\_, as originally filed  
 pages \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_, as amended (together with any statement under Article 19)  
 pages \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the demand  
 pages \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_

the drawings:

pages \_\_\_\_\_ 1/3-3/3 \_\_\_\_\_, as originally filed  
 pages \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the demand  
 pages \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_  
 the sequence listing part of the description:  
 pages \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_, as originally filed  
 pages \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the demand  
 pages \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_, filed with the letter of \_\_\_\_\_

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item. These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language \_\_\_\_\_ which is:

the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).  
 the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).  
 the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

contained in the international application in written form.  
 filed together with the international application in computer readable form.  
 furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.  
 furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.  
 The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.  
 The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4.  The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

the description, pages \_\_\_\_\_  
 the claims, Nos. \_\_\_\_\_  
 the drawings, sheets/fig \_\_\_\_\_

5.  This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).\*\*

\* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rule 70.16 and 70.17).

\*\* Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/EP 03/13890

## V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

## 1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-19	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-19	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-19	YES
	Claims		NO

## 2. Citations and explanations

**Cited Documents:**

D1: EP-A-1 153 236 (WEINHOLD KARL) 14 November 2001 (2001-11-14), cited in the application

D2: DE 881 287 C (BUSCH JAEGER LUEDENSCHEID) 29 June 1953 (1953-06-29)

1. Document D1, which is considered the closest prior art, discloses a coupling for steel spiral tubes according to the preamble of claim 1.
2. The subject matter of claim 1 thus differs from the subject matter of document D1 by the characterizing part of the claim.
3. The problem to be solved by the present invention can thus be seen as that of producing a coupling of the present type that is suitable for use with steel spiral tubes of varying pitches.
4. Although document D1 shows a coupling of the type in question in figures 1 to 4, said coupling provides a spiraled groove (10) in the interior of the clamping jaw (1) rather than a separate spiral, which, owing to its flexibility, can be adapted to all different

pitches (cf. figures 3A, 3B and 7; page 6, paragraph 2). For this reason, the clamp according to document D1 is well-suited only for one particular steel spiral tube. Although document D2 discloses a spiral in the form of a spring (1) (see figures 1 and 2), there is no clamp consisting of at least two clamp halves and configured as a clamping jaw. The claimed nozzle is also not present. Instead, when the coupling nut (2) is attached, the spring (1) and thus also the spiral tube are contracted and, as a result, permanent damage to the tube can occur. Such damage is prevented by the coupling with at least two clamp halves according to the invention.

5. Accordingly, none of the cited documents discloses a solution according to claim 1 or gives any indication of combining two or more disclosures in order to arrive at the claimed invention. Therefore, the subject matter of claim 1 is inventive, as is the subject matter of dependent claims 2-19.